

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 028978
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 COME-00
SIG-01 DLOS-09 INT-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PRS-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 CG-00 /089 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/RPP-CEFINAN:BJF
APPROVED BY ARA RGARELLANO
ARA/RPP-JAPARKER
ARA/CEN - DJOHNSON
OES - BHALLMAN(DRAFT)
COMM/NMFS - MS. KEITH(DRAFT)
-----026251 031317Z /43

R 030237Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMCONSUL HAMILTON
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028978

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, IATTC

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SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF XXXV MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

1. THE XXXV MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA
COMMISSION AND XXI INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON TUNA
CONSERVATION, HELD OCTOBER 17-21, 1977 IN MEXICO, WERE

SUSPENDED WITHOUT AGREEMENT ON 1978 YELLOWFIN TUNA ALLOCATIONS. AT THAT TIME COUNTRY DEMANDS WERE AS FOLLOWS: MEXICO - 6000 TONS FOR SMALL BOATS DURING CLOSED SEASON, 25,000 ADDITIONAL TONS FOR THE CLOSED SEASON; COSTA RICA - BETWEEN 15,000 AND 20,000 TONS COMBINED FOR SMALL BOATS AND OTHER VESSELS DURING CLOSED SEASON; NICARAGUA - 6000 TONS DURING CLOSED SEASON; AND PANAMA - 6000 TONS DURING CLOSED SEASON. THE ABOVE COUNTRIES ARE ALLOWED, IN ADDITION, 15 OF THEIR TOTAL CATCH QUOTAS FOR INCIDENTAL YELLOWFIN TUNA CATCHES, AND ARE ENTITLED TO UNLIMITED CATCHES DURING OPEN SEASON AND TO A LAST UNRESTRICTED FISHING TRIP AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE SEASON. THE US DELEGATION HELD THAT MEXICAN AND COSTA RICAN DEMANDS WERE UNREALISTICALLY HIGH, SINCE THEY DID NOT TRACK WITH HISTORICAL CATCHES OR FUTURE CATCHES PROJECTED IN LIGHT OF KNOWN VESSEL ACQUISITIONS. OTHER REQUESTS WERE REGARDED AS REASONABLE.

2. MEETINGS RECONVENED JANUARY 25-26, 1978 IN SAN DIEGO. MEXICO BROUGHT NEW OFFER OF 26,500 TONS TOTAL CATCH FOR YEAR, WITH NO SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR SMALL BOATS OR DISTINCTION BETWEEN OPEN SEASON AND CLOSED SEASON CATCHES. MEXICANS EXPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH THIS FIGURE, THEY HAD COMPROMISED FOR SAKE OF CONTINUING CONSERVATION OF TUNA RESOURCE FOR THE LAST YEAR OF THE COMMISSION'S REGIME. THEY REPEATED THIS RATIONALE PUBLICLY DURING THE MEETING. GIVEN MEXICO'S CONFIDENTIAL

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1977 YELLOWFIN CATCH OF 18,500 TONS, US DELEGATION FELT NEW FIGURE COULD BE JUSTIFIED BY MEXICO'S POTENTIAL AND ACCEPTED.

3. MEXICANS AUTHORIZED US DELEGATION TO ADVISE COSTA RICANS OF TERMS OF AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, GOCR DELEGATES ADAMANTLY REFUSED TO BACK AWAY FROM THEIR ORIGINAL DEMANDS. THEY SAID THEY MIGHT BE PREPARED TO COME DOWN A FEW TONS BUT OBSERVED THAT SINCE THE TWO SIDES WERE SO FAR APART NO AGREEMENT SEEMED POSSIBLE. THE US DELEGATION POINTED OUT THAT COSTA RICA'S 1977 CATCH WAS LESS THAN 1000 TONS OF YELLOWFIN, AND THAT EVEN WITH ACQUISITIONS OF ALL BOATS PLANNED COSTA RICAN CATCH COULD NOT POSSIBLY EXCEED EVEN THE 6000 TON CLOSED SEASON ALLOWANCE ALLOCATED FOR 1977. US DELEGATION ALSO POINTED OUT IMPLICATIONS OF LACK OF AGREEMENT FOR 1978: NO CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR YELLOWFIN TUNA WILL TAKE EFFECT, AND US TUNA FLEET, NORMALLY REMOVED FROM PRIME FISHING GROUNDS AFTER MARCH, WILL BE FREE TO FISH ALL YEAR IN COMPETITION WITH OTHER NATIONS. COSTA RICANS REFUSED TO BARGAIN.

4. THE US CANNOT AGREE TO COSTA RICAN DEMANDS BECAUSE EVERY TON OF ALLOCATION AWARDED TO COASTAL STATE AND UNUSED IS IN EFFECT LOST TO THE FISHING FLEET FOR THAT YEAR. THE MAIN EFFECT IS ON THE US FLEET. IF NO AGREE-
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STANDING OF THE ISSUES DISPLAYED BY THEIR COSTA RICAN
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COLLEAGUES.

5. ACCORDING TO DR. JOSEPH, IATTC DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGA-
TIONS, FOR AN IATTC CONSERVATION REGIME TO BE IMPLEMENTED

UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT MUST BE REACHED BY THE END OF FEBRUARY, BECAUSE CLOSURE OF THE REGULATORY AREA NORMALLY IS ORDERED EARLY THAT MONTH. PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED FOR A "MAIL VOTE" OF UNANIMITY TAKE ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

6. IT APPEARS THE ONLY CHANCE FOR SUCH AGREEMENT HINGES ON A DIRECT US APPROACH TO THE GOCR. SEPARATE TELEGRAM WITH GUIDANCE FOR EMBASSY SAN JOSE WILL FOLLOW. SINCE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAS ALREADY BEEN REACHED WITH OTHER IATTC COASTAL STATES, NO ACTION BY ADDRESSEES IS REQUIRED. DEPARTMENT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF PROGRESS - IF ANY - TOWARD AGREEMENT. VANCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, TUNA
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Copy: <CONCATENATED>
Draft Date: 03 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3455050
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970827
Subject: RESUMPTION OF XXXV MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)
TAGS: EFIS, JA, IATTC
To: BOGOTA CARACAS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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